

Abstract of the Disclosure

In a communications system, multi-rate coding in accordance with the invention is implemented to generate multiple representations of an audio signal at different rates. These representations contain equivalent and/or various amounts of audio information. In an illustrative embodiment, at least one of the representations is a core representation containing core audio information. The remaining representations are enhancement representations containing enhancement audio information. The core representation is necessary for recovering the audio signal with minimal acceptable quality. Such quality is enhanced when the core representation, together with one or more of the enhancement representations, is used to recover the audio signal.